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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

13 June 1983

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM : Major General Edward B. Atkeson, USA
National Intelligence Officer for General Purpose Forces

SUBJECT : Military Analytic Exchange

1. On 9 June 1983 I held an exploratory meeting of Intelligence Community analysts working in the general purpose forces arena with the intent of establishing a series of periodic exchanges that would bring analysts and managers together for discussion of key substantive issues. The purpose of these meetings will be to foster community dialogue on Soviet and other general purpose force developments, to exchange information on agency research and production programs, and to illuminate issues which we may wish to bring to your attention and that of other senior intelligence managers. This initial session generated considerable interest, and we plan on future meetings at least quarterly.

2. At the initial meeting (see agenda attached) we reviewed the General Purpose Forces production program for the remainder of 1983 and early 1984, discussed the scope and format of future meetings, and held discussion on two substantive issues. The substantive discussion is summarized below.

3. New Soviet "Army Corps" Structure. Analysts from CIA and DIA reviewed the recent development of a new organization within the Soviet ground forces: the "unified army corps," (not to be confused with our concept of a corps, which may be three or four times larger). Composed of tank and mechanized brigades (not seen since World War II) and support units, these new corps appear to reflect Soviet intent to create a permanent organization with a fixed structure to execute Operational Maneuver Group missions.

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4. Thus far, what appears to be a unified army corps has been established in the Far East Military District opposite the Chinese border and in the Belorussian Military District opposite NATO. At each location, an existing Soviet division has been reorganized into a multi-brigade structure and augmented with additional formations, such as an air assault unit, and additional weapons and equipment such as communications gear. The structure of these corps is still evolving but may include up to four tank or mechanized brigades and various combat and service support elements including helicopter aviation, air assault, and beefed up artillery and air defense.

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Edward B. Atkeson

Attachment:
Agenda

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